

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for activating and deactivating parameter sets comprising the steps of:

(A) activating a first parameter set in response to a reference to a first identification value associated with said first parameter set; and

(B) deactivating said first parameter set in response to a reference to a second identification value associated with a second parameter set.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first parameter set and said second parameter set comprise picture parameter sets.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first parameter set and said second parameter set comprise sequence parameter sets.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

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storing said first parameter set and said second parameter set.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

re-activating said first parameter set in response to a subsequent reference to said first identification value.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein only one sequence parameter set and one picture parameter set are active at any given time.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

parsing network abstraction layer (NAL) unit syntax from a bitstream; and

5 parsing one or more NAL types from said NAL syntax.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

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controlling said parsing of said one or more NAL types  
based upon an active sequence parameter set and an active picture  
5 parameter set.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising  
the step of:

controlling a video decoding process based upon an active  
sequence parameter set and an active picture parameter set.

10. An apparatus comprising:

means for activating a first parameter set in response to  
a reference to a first identification value associated with said  
first parameter set; and

5 means for deactivating said first parameter set in  
response to a reference to a second identification value associated  
with a second parameter set.

11. An apparatus comprising:

a first circuit configured (i) to activate a first  
parameter set in response to a reference to a first identification  
value associated with said first parameter set and (ii) to

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5 deactivate said first parameter set in response to a reference to a second identification value associated with a second parameter set; and

a second circuit configured to store said first parameter set and said second parameter set.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first parameter set and said second parameter set comprise picture parameter sets.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first parameter set and said second parameter set comprise sequence parameter sets.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:  
said second circuit is further configured to store a plurality of sequence parameter sets and a plurality of picture parameter sets.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein:

said first circuit is further configured to re-activate said first parameter set in response to a subsequent reference to said first identification value.

16. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said first circuit is configured to tag only one sequence parameter set and one picture parameter set as active at any given time.

17. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first circuit further comprises:

a first parser configured to parse a network abstraction layer (NAL) unit syntax from a bitstream; and

5 a second parser configured to parse one or more NAL types from said NAL syntax.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

said second parser is further configured to parse said one or more NAL types based upon an active sequence parameter set and an active picture parameter set.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a video decoder configured to decode a bitstream based upon an output from said second parser, an active sequence  
5 parameter set and an active picture parameter set.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a device configured to present a video display in response to an output of said video decoder and an output of said  
5 second parser.